

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the Specification as follows:

Page 1, line 4, under the CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS section, please amend the paragraph starting thereat into two paragraphs as follows:

"This non-provisional United States (U.S.) patent application claims the benefit of and is a divisional of U.S. Patent Application No. 09/704,439 filed on November 1, 2000 by inventors Rajiv Ramaswami, et al., entitled "METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR OPTICAL TO ELECTRICAL TO OPTICAL CONVERSION IN AN OPTICAL CROSS-CONNECT SWITCH", now allowed.

The parent patent application, U.S. Patent Application No. 09/704,439, claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 60/162,936 entitled "OPTICAL CROSSCONNECT WITH OPTICAL TO ELECTRICAL CONVERTERS" filed on November 2, 1999 by inventor Rajiv Ramaswami; and also claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 60/170,094 entitled "OPTICAL CROSSCONNECT WITH BRIDGING, TEST ACCESS AND REDUNDANCY" filed on December 10, 1999 by inventors Rajiv Ramaswami and Robert Ward; and also claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 60/170,095 entitled "OPTICAL CROSSCONNECT WITH LOW-LOSS BRIDGING, TEST ACCESS, AND REDUNDANCY" filed on December 10, 1999 by inventors Steven Clark and Rajiv Ramaswami; and also claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 60/170,093 entitled "1+1 OPTICAL PROTECTION USING OPTICAL CROSSCONNECTS" filed on December 10, 1999 by inventors Rajiv Ramaswami and Robert Ward-which is incorporated herein by reference; and also claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 60/170,092 entitled "SIGNALING INTERFACE BETWEEN OPTICAL CROSSCONNECT AND ATTACHED EQUIPMENT" filed on December 10, 1999 by inventor Rajiv

Ramaswami; and also claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 60/186,108 entitled "1:N PROTECTION BETWEEN CLIENTS AND ALL-OPTICAL CROSSCONNECTS" filed on March 1, 2000 by inventors Kent Erickson, Subhashini Kaligotla, and Rajiv Ramaswami; and also claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 60/200,425 entitled "OPTICAL CROSSCONNECT SYSTEM" filed on April 28, 2000 by inventors Rajiv Ramaswami, Steve Tabaska, and Robert Ward."